

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

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S E C R E T LIMA 5201

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XA CU UR MPOL PE
SUBJ: PERUVIAN REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 148740

1. GOP OFFICIALS, NOTABLY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE MILITARY, HAVE ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS INDICATED INFORMALLY TO US THEIR CONCERN ABOUT CUBAN, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THEY SEE THIS AS A POSSIBLE FORERUNNER TO RENEWED SUBVERSIVE ADVENTURISM ON THE PART OF CUBA IN THE ANDEAN REGION. CHE GUEVARA'S ILL-FATED FORAY INTO BOLIVIA IS NOT FORGOTTEN, AND PERUVIAN MILITARY OFFICERS SPECULATE THAT FUTURE CUBAN EFFORTS IN SOUTH AMERICA COULD INVOLVE CONVENTIONAL FORCES; SOME WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE US TAKE A STRONGER STAND IN AFRICA. IN THE CONTEXT OF NAM MEETINGS, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE RELATED CUBA'S AFRICAN ACTIVITIES TO THE QUESTION OF ITS STANDING AS A TRULY "NON-ALIGNED" STATE (SEE LIMA 2191 AND 3478). THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS BEEN MORE AMBIVALENT ON INTERVENTION IN AFRICA BY EITHER THE SOVIET/CUBANS OR THE WEST (LIMA 5013) AND RECENT RADIO PROGRAMS HAVE ON OCCASION TAKEN THE COMMUNIST LINE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENTS IN ZAIRE, I.E., THE NATO POWERS ARE THE REAL NEOCOLONIALISTS.

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2. DESPITE THE EVIDENCE OF CONCERN ABOUT THIS ISSUE WITHIN THE GOP, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SO WORRIED AS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT AND HAS THUS FAR NOT OPENLY VOICED OPPOSITION TO CUBAN AND SOVIET ACTIONS. THIS IS PROBABLY DUE IN PART TO THEIR INTEREST IN MAINTAINING NAM SOLIDARITY, AS WELL AS THEIR RELUCTANCE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A QUESTION THAT COULD

ADVERSELY AFFECT THEIR BILATERAL TIES WITH CUBA AND THE USSR.
GOP SOURCES HAVE NOT INDICATED THEIR VIEWS ON THE POSSIBLE
DIVISIVE IMPACT OF THIS ISSUE IN LATIN AMERICA.
SHLAUDEMAN

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